

We reject the hypocritical intentions and distorted narrations of the Himalayan Declaration in its entirety, which ignores Thimbu principles to promote fallacious politics.

Hegemonic Sinhala Buddhist ideology remains the core of political power in Sri Lanka. The populist politics, built around this ideology, secure a voting threshold to seize power. The same ideology secures the consent of the ruled for the rulers to suppress other nationalities and silence the dissenting voices within its group. It creates the mindset, to tolerate and approve the inefficiencies and corruptions of the government.

The political and economic crisis emanating from the state structure entwined in the Sinhalese Buddhist hegemony and the cultural fabric based on the same cannot be reformed by actions that are based on those very structures and culture, aimed at placating the supremacists.

Rather, the solution to these crises can be achieved through political arrangements that define and accept the political status of the people oppressed by the hegemonic ideology and its agents. The true recognition of the equal political status of the Tamil people oppressed by the hegemonic ideology is a necessary precondition for the way forward.

For the past seven decades, the Tamil people, an oppressed people, have been demanding, both within and outside the electoral democratic system, that they be recognized as a nation and make political arrangements that are based on this. The most important policy position, formed in this long journey, was the Thimphu principles proposed by the parliamentary representatives of the Tamil people who came through the election and the youth movements who wanted to advance revolutionary politics alternatively. The Tamil people paid an immense price for upholding that principle and continuing their struggle.

Statements one, two, three, and four of the 'Himalayan Declaration' issued by the Global Tamil Forum and the Sangha for a Better Sri Lanka (GTF-SBSL) completely ignore the pre-requisite and fundamental principle of equality of nations in the island and conceptually distort the issue into a problem of misunderstanding and an individual and group-based human rights problem, and try to depoliticize the national question. In addition, this statement attempts to confine the problem within the spectrum of tolerance of Sinhala Buddhist hegemonic ideology and tries to maintain the status quo of the supremacy of the ideology, making it a non-starter for any solution to the national question.

The fifth statement of the declaration exempts the state, the executive apparatus of Sinhala-Buddhist ideology, and its instruments of violence, the three forces, from accountability and subjects only certain Buddhist monks and organizations outside the state structure by this. This is a grave political conspiracy and a Machiavellian attempt to protect the "genocidaires" from any prosecution by any international criminal justice system.

The joint statement issued by the Global Tamil Forum and the Sangha for a Better Sri Lanka (GTF-SBSL), along with the jointly signed Himalayan Declaration, expresses the voice of only the GTF. The Sangha for Better Sri Lanka (SBSL) remains quiet even though it is appropriate to show the essential, minimum signs of goodwill.

Neither acceptance nor regret for the disasters caused by the Sinhalese Buddhist hegemonic ideology and its political programs was shown in the joint statement by The Sangha for Better Sri Lanka (SBSL). Similarly, during and after the signing of the Declaration, The Sangha for Better Sri Lanka (SBSL) has kept silent on the archaeological projects currently being conducted by the

leadership of the Sinhalese Buddhist Clergy at Kurundur Hill, and the encroachment of Mylathamadu pastoral lands to enable state-sponsored colonization.

The GTF did not consider the Tamil people's urgent issues at the inception of the dialogue and abstained from requesting the other party to make goodwill gestures concerning issues such as the issue of the forcibly disappeared, imprisonment of political prisoners, continued use of the Prevention of Terrorism Act, and rejection of the right to remember our dead.

Our people continue to be the victims of destruction and oppression in the times of war and the subsequent 15 years so far. There is a need to give a voice to them and help find solutions. Everyone has the opportunity to speak up and facilitate solutions. Many diaspora Tamil organizations are attempting them very honestly without compromising the fundamental demands of the Tamil people.

However, we emphatically state that only a broad coalition of people and organizations, formed by the Tamil people in the homeland together with people in the Tamil diaspora who have been espousing the legitimate rights of the Tamils, have the moral right to speak on behalf of the Tamil people and negotiate on behalf of them, and make agreements and declarations.

It is amply clear that the Himalayan Declaration initiative is funded and stage-managed by the international political agenda to reframe the nature of domestic issues and narratives in line with globalized capitalist interests, geopolitical order, and political socioeconomic order that only recognizes nation-states. We are also aware of massive ideologically hegemonic projects aimed at politico-economic oppression and directing unbridled state violence against stateless nationalities, voiceless groups, and marginalized people living all over the world.

We know that we are surrounded by manifestations of an economic and political system that jeopardizes the very existence of this earth. We also know that the Himalayan Declaration issued by the Global Tamils Forum and Society for a Better Sri Lanka (GTF-SBSL) is only a part of the hidden web of conspiracy spun by the global superpowers.

We firmly believe that a broad political coalition capable of addressing the conspiracies of the global powers and the Sinhala Buddhist hegemonic state to pervert the course of justice will be formed by the oppressed people living in the homeland joined by the Tamil diaspora living outside the nation's boundaries.

If this initiative is rightly portrayed as a dialogue between the Global Tamil Forum (GTF), one among the many Tamil Diaspora organizations having pluralistic perspectives, and the Sangha for Better Sri Lanka (SBSL), one among the many organizations that strongly promote Sinhalese Buddhist hegemonical ideology, we are not at all against such a dialogue. Such conversations are the need of the hour.

We reject the hypocritical intentions and distorted narrations of the Himalayan Declaration in its entirety, aimed at promoting fallacious politics that discards the Thimphu Principles that encompass principles of virtue, logic, and justice, which are necessary to achieve ever-lasting peace.

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- Kumaran Sports Club
- Voice of The Voiceless
- Kurinchi Kumaran Community Centre, Kupilan
- Kaithady Kumaranagar Community Centre
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- Kaithadi South East Women Rural Development Society
- Kaithady South West Women Rural Development Society
- Kaithady Navatkuli Selva Community Centre
- Kaithadi People Welfare Union
- Kaithadi Women Federation
- Kaithady North Selva Community Centre
- Kaithady North Selva Women Rural Development Society
- Chandirapuram Women Rural Development Society
- Social Science Research Centre
- Sithy Vinayahar Sports Club, Aanaikoddai
- Suyampu - Theatre Action Centre, Jaffna
- Vavuniya Independent Tamil Youth Movement
- Sevaham Women Wing
- Tamils' Heritage Forum
- Tamil Lawyers' Forum
- Tamil Social Activists' Network
- Tamil Civil Society Forum (TCSF)
- Tamil National Movement for Life
- Thalam
- Thayakam Jananam Foundation
- Thaavadi North Women Rural Development Society
- National Fisheries Solidarity Movement - Mullaitivu
- Navasakthi Community Centre
- Navasakthi Women Rural Development Society
- Navali Women Rural Development Society
- Navali Somasunthara Pulavar Humanitarian Trust Fund
- Justice And Peace Commission Diocese of Jaffna
- Priests And Religious for Justice and Peace, North East
- Centre For Justice and Change - Trincomalee
- Citizen's Committee, Mannar

- Puzuthi – Organization for Social Rights
- Consortium of Civil Organizations, Mannar
- Batticaloa Press Club
- Mannar Social and Economic Development Organization (MSEDO)
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- Minnoli Women Rural Development Society
- Minnoli Sports Club
- Mullaitivu Press Club
- Mullaitivu District Fishermen's Co-Op Societies' Union Ltd
- Muthur Young Men Hindu Association (MYMHA)
- Jaffna Press Club
- Jaffna District Federation
- Jaffna District Women's Samaasam
- Employees' Union, University of Jaffna
- University Students' Union, Jaffna
- Jaffna Economists' Association
- Vadamaradchi East Citizens' Committee Organisation
- Association for Relatives of The Enforced Disappearances in North East
- Vavuniya Press Club
- Valarmathi Madduvil Community Centre
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